basis. These Transporters are independent, distinct and separate entities and operate their business in an independent manner to various customs including the Fruit & Vegetable Unit of Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Ltd. The drivers & conductors appointed by these transporters are not exclusively working as contractor labour for the said unit.

The issue of non extension of Provident Fund benefits to the employees of transport companies attached with the Mother Dairy (F&V) Plant, Mangolpuri came to the notice of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and accordingly an inquiry under Section 7A of the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 was initiated for determination of dues. The employer was directed to remit an amount of Rs. 1,86,291/- for the period June, 1996 to July, 1997. The said order under Section 7A was subsequently set aside by the Employees' Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal. Employees Provident Fund Organisation filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. The matter is sub-judice.

Female workers in Fish Processing Units

3906. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women/adolescent girls working in Fish Processing Units in the country;

(b) whether most of these women/girls work at night and if so, how safety is ensured for them particularly against sexual harassment;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to peeling prawns, crabs with bare fingers in saline water, for hours together, they develop eczema, their fingers bleed etc; and

(d) if so, in what manner minimum safety is ensured for these women against work hazard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to recent reports,

there are about one lakh workers directly engaged in fish processing and most of them are female between the age of 18 to 24 years.

(b) In certain fish processing units, some times workers including women workers have to work beyond 7 p.m. depending on the demand and urgency of the work. However, no specific case of sexual harassment has been reported.

(c) and (d) The workers employed in the peeling sheds are prone to occupational diseases like skin erosion on inner palm and fingers, infections etc. However, in all registered processing/pre-processing units, good quality potable water is used. Further, no saline water is used and workers normally get adequate time to keep their hands dry for a certain period. Whenever the workers feel that their hands are susceptible to infection, they wear gloves provided by the processing units. Medical care is also given to workers in approved fish processing units.

Unemployment Problem

3907. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of unemployment problem indicating the number of unemployed both educated and uneducated, State-wise; and

(b) the number of direct and indirect employment generated through NGOs by implementation of Government schemes as well as funding from other sources including foreign funding, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) State-wise, educated and uneducated jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges as on 31.12.1999 (latest available) is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(b) Information on direct and indirect employment generation through NGOs is not maintained.